

FAA Board meeting minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2015
Film Co-op Board Room
Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Allen Bentley, Sabine Campbell, Dan Gleason, Bruce Gray, Russ Hunt, Heather McTiernan, Tony Merzetti, Penny Pacey, Cynthia Ryder

Guest: Katie Fitzrandolph

Absent: Jean Rooney

1. **Call to order** by Penny at 6:02

2. **Adoption of the agenda**

Penny suggested we alter the agenda to move the Election Forum item up to precede the Treasurer's report, since Katie doesn't need to be here for the whole meeting. This was agreed. Adoption was moved by Bruce, seconded by Tony, and carried.

3. **Adoption of the minutes**

Adoption of the edited minutes of the August 5 meeting was moved by Russ, seconded by Heather, and carried.

4. **President's report**

a. Penny welcomed Katie Fitzrandolph to the meeting, and expressed her and the Board's gratitude for her work on the political forum and supervising the summer student.

b. Penny said that Clio was finished and we are still awaiting a final report. We're not sure what the status of the signage (banner) is. The brochure was complete but there was a problem with the bleed in the printing format; Penny said she had been in touch with the printer and they were going to correct it. The brochures should be available in a week. The problem of the venue for the Artist in Residence exhibition never did get solved; none of the potential locations worked out – for example, the best we could do with Old Government House was April, which is just too long after the event. We missed a deadline for the Library. Bruce noted that it and the Playhouse might still be possibilities in future. Russ said that he'd thought Clio was going to do a report on the Artists in Residence program, and had said it was “nearly finished” not long before she left. Penny suggested he contact her about that; he said he would. Katie said that Clio had been great to work with.

c. Art Off the Streets. Penny said that Bruce would talk about it under that agenda item, and noted that Heather has submitted an application for an “Impact” grant from the Fredericton Community Foundation for the first part of the project. They had requested further information and it was provided, but we've not had a decision. We now have a list of twelve artists who are interested in participating, and it's possible we could work more in.

d. ArtsLinkNB contact re: political forum. Penny reported that Katie Wallace had approached us

about how we organized the forum, and suggested they'd like to do it on a provincial basis. It's not clear exactly what information they want. Katie said she's not sure either but conversations continue.

e. Penny wondered if there had been voicemail messages. Russ said that, thanks to Tony's suggestion, he had set up the Bell Aliant voice to email system to send any voicemail as a message, including a .wav file, to president@frederictonartsalliance.ca, and that she should have received them. She did not think she had. Russ said he was surprised but would check on it. The only message he could remember was a confirmation about the credit card process for the Gala.

f. Election Forum – Katie (original item c under Programs/issues). Katie said the forum is set for September 14, in the CSAC at 7:00, and everything's arranged: the four candidates are confirmed, Suzanne Alexander is moderating, and refreshments are arranged. She mentioned that she and Suzanne agreed that the format at the last debate hadn't worked very well (too formal) and they were hoping to find a way to improve it. They will let the candidates know in advance so they will know what to expect. Allen wondered if we should put posters up. Katie said it certainly wouldn't hurt; we would need to get posters made. She said we should put out a special issue of the *ARTSnews* about it; Russ will do that. Sabine wondered about Grid City; Russ said he'd contact Matt. Sabine wondered about leadnow.ca, whom she would be in touch with tomorrow. It was agreed we should publicize this aggressively, as it is an important issue.

5. Treasurer's report / Membership report.

Cynthia reported that there were three new memberships, one institutional, and we now have 70 members. Russ noted that he had posted [Cynthia's list](#) on the Board Web page. Penny asked whether the Artists in Residence program had generated any new members; Cynthia said it was possible, but there's no way to be sure.

Cynthia summarized the [August statement](#), which was circulated via email. Estimated expenses will leave us \$16997.82 for October, and for October through December are about \$1689; Gala expenditures run in the vicinity of \$7000. That would leave us with about \$8300, plus whatever profits are gleaned from the Gala and any grant income for 2016. She concluded that we have spent very well this year and need to make sure we get the push on for the Gala. She also reported that we had \$1000 from Downtown Fredericton last month (she was not sure what for). Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Russ, seconded by Cynthia, and carried.

6. Programs / issues:

a. Artists in Residence – Penny

Penny said we've already talked about the brochure. Sabine said that it sounded as though the problem shouldn't actually have happened, but Penny thought it was understandable, since Clio had little experience with that and there was lots of work to do in her last couple of weeks. She also reported that Katie was taking care of the final logistics, and that everything had worked out well.

b. Gala fundraiser – Sabine

Sabine said that all is going well with logistics. Contributions from artists are coming in. We can

still use more. She emphasized that the contributions from artists are not gifts, and when we're discussing them we should make that clear: artists choose either a tax receipt for the full value, or half the actual sale value (which is what galleries normally take). It's also important that we make clear the price needs to be in a range where the work actually might sell.

c. Election Forum – Katie [discussed earlier]

d. City Grant application – Penny/Bruce/Heather

Heather explained the situation with the Fredericton Community Foundation “Impact Grants.” We have begun the process of applying for the first, larger one (\$20,000), to support the Art off the Streets program. We had a request for further information than Heather was able to supply in the initial application, and we have provided it (primarily it involved more detail – for instance, we provided a list of 12 artists and their projects). It seems they have an interest, but we haven't heard about the decision yet; the deadline for applications is September 23. Penny said that Andrea Penney's urged us to apply in support of the Art in the Schools program, and we might consider that for the second grant. We're also thinking of applying for the second grant to support the Web site events calendar project (Russ said he'd have more to say on that in a bit). Penny said it seems clear our immediate focus should be on funding the Art Off the Streets program, and we should have a committee of Bruce, Heather, Katie, Penny, and Jean if she's available. Bruce said he has spoken again with Warren Maddox who was a great deal of help in thinking about what kinds of projects would be appropriate and that the residents would be interested in. He pointed out that it's difficult to survey residents because the population is ever-changing. Maddox suggested that things like drawing and mixed media, journalism, creative writing, and music might be most popular, and that acid etching or egg tempera would be bad ideas. Bruce's suggestions of shingle signs and welding seemed like possibilities. Penny observed that it's about skills as much as about self-expression. Bruce said it's important to bear in mind that the residents are mostly working poor, not derelicts; that Maddox had said many, perhaps 60%, of the residents really should never be there: they simply can't afford housing, even if they're working full time. Dan wondered where the sessions would take place, and who would pay for equipment; Bruce said that the shelter had the space and that the reason we were looking at the grant was in part to pay for supplies. Penny said the grant would specify that an exhibition should be juried; there are questions like that still to be settled. Dan wondered how the call for artists was circulated. Penny said that that had been organized by Clio, and that we have a dozen enthusiastic artists on our list, and read their names.

Heather said she had learned that Scotiabank offers to match funding for fundraisers up to \$10,000 from the local branch. Cynthia explained with some fervor why it would be a good idea for us to be able to double what we make from the Gala; our activities are chronically underfunded – we will have less money at the end of this year than last, because, for example, we've supported the extended Artists in Residence program beyond the grant. It was agreed that Heather should explore that. Allen raised the issue of the positive reports on the Art in the Schools program, and thought we should be able to parlay those into further grants. He and Heather agreed to discuss that. It was agreed that the Art off the Streets program is the primary target for the Impact Grant, and that we would continue to look at others for the Artists in Residence. Sabine noted that we seem to be pretty active without a consultants' advice on our mission.

e. Website/ Phone messages/ Calendar of events – Russ

Russ said he's working on three issues currently. One is the revived project of a central online arts calendar to be the access point for everything happening in Fredericton, which he originally proposed in 2003 as a province-wide project, and which has languished since 2006 or so because it seemed we'd never have the financing to cover startup costs unless the site were province-wide, and ArtsLinkNB didn't seem interested. Recently, however, largely because of our learning about the Impact Grant, he's decided it might be worth trying again. It's also important that the startup quotation he had in 2006 from the creator of the (then exemplary) Toronto Arts Online events calendar, which was \$4500, seemed impossible then and doesn't seem so now (although it was lowered because it would have been the second time, other issues might render it easier, and thus less expensive, how). He said he is currently working on a revised [explanation and list of criteria](#) that might serve as a Request for Proposals, and using a [list](#), provided by Heather, of 20 local IT firms who might be qualified. The site might eventually be provincial, if ArtsLinkNB comes on board, but for now he's envisioning a collaboration between us, Fredericton Tourism, Grid City Magazine, Music Runs Through It, the *Gleaner*, and others. He has had positive feedback from people attending an ArtsLinkNB mission statement consulting meeting in Fredericton on August 18 and from Angela Watson, with whom he discussed it at the Culture Connect event at the CSAC on August 26. He said he would keep the board informed of progress.

Because STU is in the process of decommissioning the server on which the mail program distributing the *ARTSnews* and hosting the FAABOARD list resides, he is moving both lists. The FAABOARD list will be shifted to GoogleGroups, probably within days; he will let everybody know when that's happening. It will work in exactly the same way as the current list except the address will be different. He asked for feedback on a new name, because there is already a list named FAABOARD on GoogleGroups. There was a consensus for FAABOARDLIST. The *ARTSnews* list is a more complex issue, in part because it has 1600 subscribers; he is exploring shifting it to a program hosted on our Web provider. Again, he said he could keep the board apprised, and said he might want to use the board addresses as guinea pigs (it's not a good idea to shift a 1600-subscriber list and have the first test fail).

He said that work on the main FAA Web site is on hold until Jean's able to participate, and until some of the more immediate issues can be dealt with.

He also reiterated that he would check on the Voicemail to email process.

f. Art in the Schools – Allen

Allen said that there's not much to be done until we see about funding, but he, Dan and Katie are ready to go, and Cynthia has revised the application forms and other documents. We won't set up the jury until later. Penny reminded us that the jury needs to be arms-length. Allen said that we need to remind Andrea Penny that this is our program, not the school district's; Penny said we might have to do something a little more aggressive than reminding. Dan wondered what had happened with the proposed *Gleaner* article about the program; Allen said that Clio had been working on it, and Russ said he would ask her about the report.

g. City Hall exhibition [Already discussed]

h. Audio visual rotation [In view of the time it was agreed this could be postponed]

8. **Other business** [There was no other business]

9. **Time and date of next meeting.**

As per our custom, the next meeting is to be on Wednesday, October 7, at 6:00.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

Russ Hunt
Secretary